

Director's Message - Summer 2009

Written by Lisa-Michele Church, Executive Director's Office
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We are continuing to feel the impact of the legislative budget cuts this summer as we begin the 2010 fiscal year. I have heard from many, many employees about the consequences of the cuts, particularly where positions have been eliminated. I understand that pain has been felt in all areas of our work.

Here is some advice I would like employees to consider:

- Resist the temptation to focus on negative themes, and concentrate on what is positive - our state is much better off than other states where they may not even make payroll.
- Resist the temptation to criticize your fellow workers - some people have rushed to point fingers and say "he should have lost his job before me." This is counterproductive and will only hurt us as we move forward.
- Give me your best ideas about process improvement. The legislature may cut us again, and we should be ready with ideas to be even more efficient.
- Rally together as workers in a common cause, even in difficult times, and put the needs of your clients into the mix. I have seen DHS employees do this and it has a truly amazing effect.

Here are some positive things that are going on around us....

- Child and Family Services continues to score well on its annual audits known as QCR and CPR. What a great effort! Keep up the good work!
- The new DHS Administration Building is nearing completion and it will be a light, uplifting place to work.
- Many DHS employees have worked on a new education guide for children in state custody - this guide is being rolled out to local schools and courts. It will help coordinate our efforts for these displaced kids.
- We enjoyed a fun Centenarians celebration in June where Utahns who have lived past 100 were honored. Read their life stories and you will be inspired to live life to the fullest!

Enjoy your summer!